



## Haru Aki Café Opens in Storrs Center

Grand Opening Ceremony Planned for Friday, December 13



December 10, 2013 (*Mansfield, CT*) – Haru Aki Café is the newest business to open its doors in Storrs Center. Located in the One Royce Circle building, Haru Aki serves authentic Japanese street fare in a modern restaurant with traditional elements.

Haru Aki is a labor of love and the first joint venture of UConn grads Ronald Liu, Jessica Chiep, and Thomas Wang. The idea to open a café together began as Storrs Center started to transform the downtown. The three friends thought about their experience at UConn, and mused, “When we were at school here, we wished there was a... (fill in the blank).” The answer came easily to them

– a fusion street food Asian place made with authentic and quality ingredients. Thus, the Haru Aki Café was born.

Haru Aki opened its doors for a test run last week with a limited menu and hours. This week, the café swings into full restaurant mode with an expansive menu and extended hours. The menu boasts hand crafted sashimi salads, house-made curry dumplings, gyu-don, Teppanyaki, and okonomiyaki dishes. Haru Aki also features appetizers, sushi, and build-your-own boba tea. The café is open seven days a week.

Haru Aki will engage with the local community as leaders in cultural education, hosting specific workshops that will range from the history of dumpling making, mochi tasting, the origins and art of calligraphy, and anime screenings, just to name a few.

A grand opening is scheduled for Friday, December 13, at 12 Noon at its One Royce Circle location. The public is invited to attend.



Credit: UConn Photo

For more information about Haru Aki Café, visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/HaruAkiCafe](https://facebook.com/HaruAkiCafe) or go to [haruakicafe.com](http://haruakicafe.com).

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*Storrs Center is a mixed-use town center and main street corridor at the crossroads of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut and the University of Connecticut. Located along Storrs Road adjacent to the University, the Town Hall, the regional high school, and the community center, Storrs Center knits thoughtful architecture, pedestrian-oriented streets, and public spaces into a series of small neighborhoods that make up the new fabric of the town center. Ground floor retail and commercial uses opening onto landscaped sidewalks reinforce traditional street front activity and is supported by residences above and shared community spaces. Storrs Center combines retail, restaurant, and office uses with residential apartments.*

**[www.storrscenter.com](http://www.storrscenter.com)**